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- **What is the origin of this religion? When/How/Why did it start?**

Confucianism is an East Asia ethical and philosophical way of life created by the Chinese sage, Confucius. It originated in the 500-400 BC. It is sometimes seen as philosophy, but some people see it as a religion. Confucianism had a great influence on the history of Chinese civilisation, right down to the 20th century. Cultures and countries such as Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea and the Chinese part of Singapore are also greatly influenced by Confucianism.

Confucianism didn't really begin with Confucius, nor was it found by him. Confucius considered himself as somewhat "a transmitter who consciously tried to retrieve the meaning of the past by breathing vitality into seemingly outmoded rituals."

Other like Mencius (Meng Tzu) and Xunzi continued the teachings of Confucius. But it was not influential until Dong Zhongshu came in the 200 BC. After that, Confucianism was considered as the *Han state cult*, which is the introduction of religious elements and sacrifices to Confucius, and the Five Classics, which became the core teaching.

- **What are the main rituals or practices of this religion?**
- **What are the main texts associated with this religion?**
- **How many people follow this religion in Australia and the World?**

Hundreds of millions of people who follow almost any type of Chinese religion will in some way follow Confucianism. Because most Chinese religions contain a mixture of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism.

26,000 people in North America follow the religion.

It is not the sort of religion that is followed solely by itself. It is sort of woven in between people's daily lives within other religions.

- **How can you be a good/devout follower of this religion?**

If you follow the 5 bonds and the heirarchy Confucius says that there will be harmony and peace. The 5 bonds are

- Ruler to Ruled
- Father to Son
- Husband to Wife
- Elder brother to Younger brother
- Friend to Friend

Younger people have to obey and respect older people. Also people who follow Confucianism will always try to be sincere and truthful.

Relationships are the main part of Confucianism, they believe that if a relationship or heirarchy is broken, harmony will be disrupted for everyone. So you can be a good/devout follower of Confucianism by following the heirarchy.

- **What rewards and punishments are associated with the faith?**

Tranquillity, synchronization, Harmony and peace are all benefits and rewards of Confucianism. There are lots of virtues of Confucianism, but there aren't any punishments except for guilt but Confucius does not have a sense of shame.

When someone follows Confucianism they try to avoid punishment because they do not believe in hell, only peace and they will always try to make amends.

Technically there are no holy sights of Confucianism, however there are some places and temples devoted to Confucius and the religion itself. Some well known ones are:

- The Confucius shrine in Nagasaki
- The Confucius shrine in Xi'an
- The Confucius temple in Beijing
- The Fuzi Miao in Nanjing

Along with these there are also many other minor temples and some ancestral buildings to commemorate his good deeds

There are also some private temples within academies.

- **Are there any important symbols associated with this religion? What are they?**

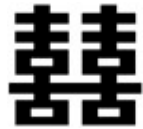
Though it is a rather large belief it has no standard symbol which completely represents it. But



they do have this -

which is the water symbol which goes along with one of his philosophies which is that water is the source of all life. This is often used though as just a general representation.

There is also this



Which is used at Chinese weddings sometimes. It means total harmony, marriage and righteousness in your life and in your relationships.

- **Upload any images that might have some significance in this religion. Explain their importance**



There is this the yin yang, which although is the symbol of Taoism is also used in confucianism. it symbolises balance in nature between opposing forces.



There is also this which is just a photo of the man himself.

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